

Date: February 3, 2004 Label No. EV147719203US

I hereby certify that, on the date indicated above, I deposited this paper with identified attachments and/or fee with the U.S. Postal Service and that it was addressed for delivery to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 by "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service.

Stephanie Hill  
Name (Print)

Stephanie Hill  
Signature

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

|  |   |                              |
|--|---|------------------------------|
| In re Application of: HABECKER et al.  | ) | Examiner: Unassigned         |
|  | ) |                              |
| Application No.: Unassigned            | ) |                              |
|  | ) | Group Art Unit: Unassigned   |
| Filed: February 3, 2004                | ) |                              |
|  | ) |                              |
| Docket No.: 99024CIPDIV2 (3600-234-03) | ) | Confirmation No.: Unassigned |

For: METHOD OF MAKING NIOBIUM AND OTHER METAL POWDERS

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

February 3, 2004

Sir:

Prior to payment of the filing fees and examination of the above-identified application on the merits, the applicants respectfully request that the application be amended as follows:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.